



Clark Pleasant School Corp.

II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

The 2008-09 ISTEP testing results for our corporation were 0.7% lower in Math and 2.1% lower in Language Arts than the corresponding scores from 2007-08. An examination of the grade-level scores indicated that the decreases were largely in grades 5-8 for Language and grades 5-6 in Math. Moreover, within the 5th and 6th grades, the scores of the Free and Reduced lunch population were decidedly lower than the scores of the Paid Lunch population. Clearly, there is a need for targeted one-on-one and small group instruction to fill these learning gaps.

Our district will begin Acuity testing in grades 3-8 next year and we believe that the data the results will provide throughout the year will provide insight into the exact gaps in each student's learning. Given the current state of the economy, however, our class sizes will increase and our number of instructional assistants will decrease, making the needed level of individualized instruction not viable.

Thus, leveraging the data and lessons from Acuity to produce a framework for instruction, we will utilize high school National Honor Society students and Freshman Mentors to provide one-on-one and small group (2-3 students) tutoring to students in grades 5-8 in Language Arts and Math. Given the vast geographical span of our district, traveling to the other buildings is not feasible for our high school students. Thus, to facilitate this interaction, the high school mentors will use Elluminate software and notebook computers to provide a connection to students in grades 5-8 as selected by the classroom teachers. Using each individual student's Acuity prescription, the mentors will provide tutoring and interaction utilizing Elluminate's video, audio, desktop viewing, and whiteboard sharing capabilities.

Through this quality one-to-one ongoing interaction, students selected to participate will strengthen weak academic areas, become engaged in the learning process, and develop a positive relationship with a high school role model. These three outcomes will result in higher ISTEP+ passing rates amongst our selected population.

To ensure quality instruction, each principal and classroom teacher at Clark-Pleasant Intermediate School (CPI) and Clark-Pleasant Middle School (CPMS), as well as the high school mentors, will undergo intensive training on both the advanced prescriptive features of Acuity and Elluminate. Also, teachers will communicate on a regular basis with the tutors to constantly monitor the success of each student and adjust instruction as necessary.

A by-product of the professional development aspect is that the advanced Acuity training will not only assist the selected group, but will also serve the entire school population since all students will have access to an Acuity prescription for remediation or enrichment. Also, since our licensing for Elluminate is unlimited, these teachers can use the software to collaborate and communicate with other teachers and classrooms. Eventually, as the program flourishes, it will be extended to the elementary level with students in the 5th and 6th grades acting as mentors for students in Kindergarten through 4th grade.